

MISSISSIPPI CHILD RESTRAINT LAWS

UNDER FOUR YEARS
Child restraint device or system.

AGES 4 TO 6
Under 4'9" tall and weigh less than
65 lbs- booster seat system

NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

UNDER 1 YEAR

Rear-facing car seat

AGES 1 TO 3

Rear-facing car seat until seat is
outgrown, then forward-facing seat
with harness

AGES 4 TO 7

Forward-facing seat until seat is
outgrown, then booster seat.

AGES 8 TO 12

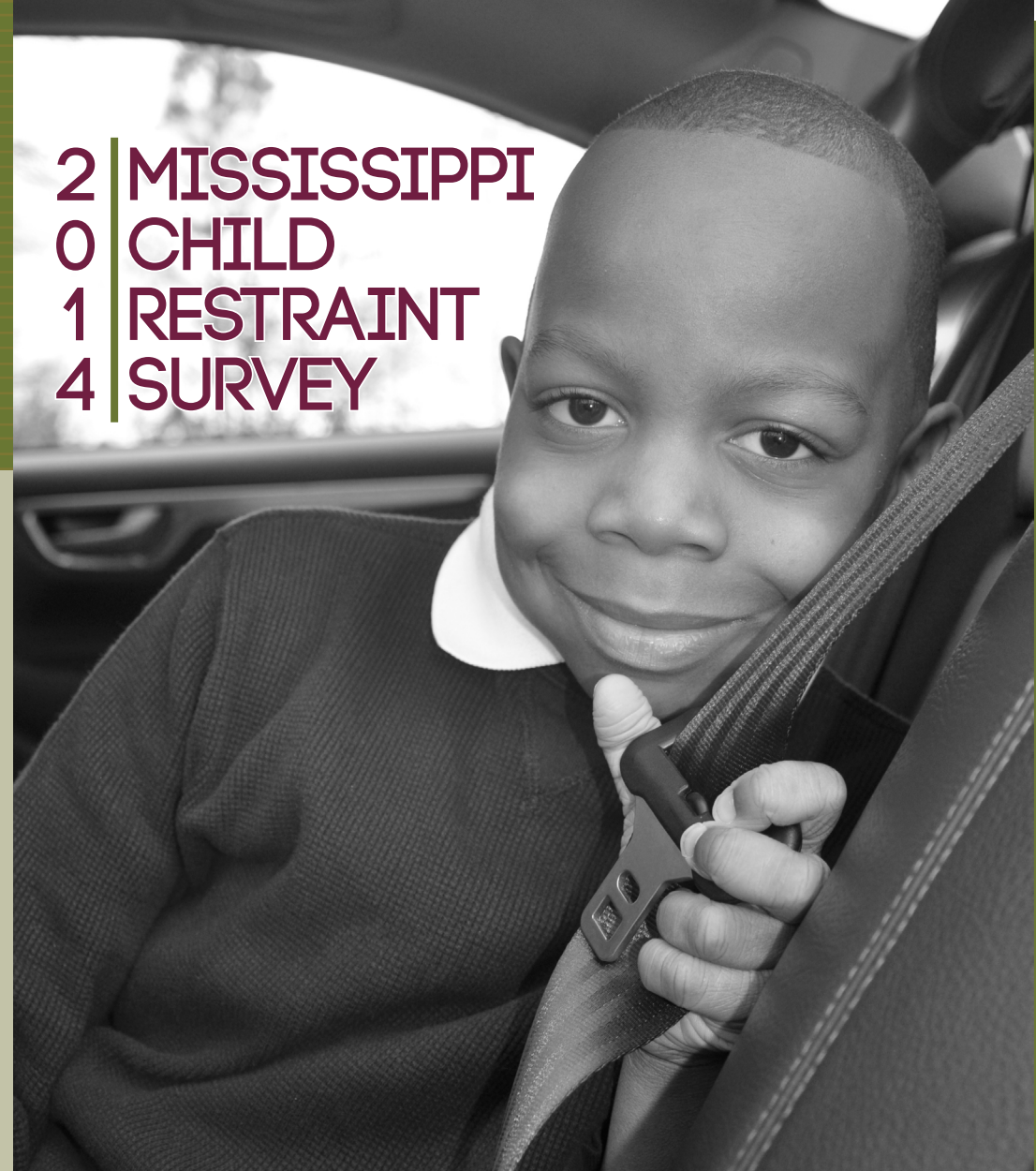
Booster seat until Child is big
enough to be properly restrained by
vehicle seat belt alone

CHILD RESTRAINT USE IN MISSISSIPPI

To evaluate the effectiveness of Mississippi's child restraint programs, observational surveys are conducted annually in cities throughout the state. The surveys and data analysis provide a basis for conclusions about the usage of child restraints in Mississippi. Child restraint use in Mississippi was found to be 81.1% for the year 2014. This rate reflects a decrease of 2.6% from last year's finding (83.7% in 2013). In comparison to other states, child restraint use in Mississippi continues to lag behind the norm. The most current figures from the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS) indicate the national average of child restraint use for children under age 8 in 2013 as 89%.

(Occupant Restraint Use in 2013: Results From the National Occupant Protection Use Survey Controlled Intersection Study DOT HS 812 080, January 2015).

2014 MISSISSIPPI CHILD RESTRAINT SURVEY



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Safe Kids

RESTRAINT USAGES OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS

In the 2014 Mississippi child restraint study, there were 5,885 vehicles observed in 40 municipalities during the survey period from March to June. These cars contained a total of 7,619 children estimated to be under the age of 7. A complete analysis of the data resulted in a 2014 overall calculated child restraint usage rate of 81.1% for Mississippi.

TABLE 1: CHILD RESTRAINT USED BY TYPE OF LOCATION

Type of Location	Using Restraints	Children Observed	Percent Using Restraints (%)
1. Fast Food	883	1088	81.2 %
2. Large Shopping Mall	138	158	87.3%
3. Grocery Store	393	493	79.7%
4. Daycare or Child Learning Center	1415	1841	76.9%
5. Health Dept. or Human Resources	346	410	84.4%
6. Medical Care Complex	314	370	84.9%
7. Playground, Park, Museum or Zoo	129	143	90.2%
8. Small Shopping Center or Walmart	931	1186	78.5%
9. Discount or Dollar Store	232	285	81.4%
10. Street Intersection	952	1149	82.9%
11. Church or Church Nursery	387	418	90.4%
12. Service Station	37	45	82.2%
13. Restaurant	24	25	96.0%
14. Post Office	3	3	100%
15. Bank	4	5	80.0%
Totals	6179	7619	81.1%

Table 1 provides information on the type of location, the number of children observed, and whether or not they were restrained. It should be noted that none of the locations are definitive of child restraint use at that type of location, but only provide some indication of the level of restraint use.

TABLE 2: SEAT BELT USAGE STATUS FOR DRIVERS

Gender	Using Seat Belt	Total Number of Observations	Percent Using Seat Belts (%)
Male	1197	1170	67.6%
Female	2864	4035	71.0%
Totals	4061	5805	70.0%

In Table 2, the percentage of drivers using seat belts by gender is presented. Of the drivers observed, 71.0% of the female drivers were belted while 67.6% of the male drivers buckled-up. Overall, 70.0% of the drivers observed were belted.

CHILD RESTRAINT USE BY SEATING POSITION OF CHILD

TABLE 3: CHILD RESTRAINT BY POSITION OF CHILD

Seating Position of Child	Children Restrained		Total Number of Children Observed	
	Count	Percent (%)	Count	Percent (%)
1. Front Seat	1076	65.6%	1639	21.6%
2. Back Seat	5087	85.7%	5933	78.4%
Totals	6163	81.4%	7572	100%

It is known that the safest place for a child to be restrained, or for that matter to ride unrestrained, is on the back seat (or second row of seats) of a vehicle. It would therefore be expected that adults putting children in the back seat of a vehicle would also have more awareness of the importance of using child restraints. The seating position, as well as the restraint status of the child, was recorded in this survey. As expected, children on the back seat of automobiles were restrained at a higher rate than were those on the front seat. Table 3 shows children in the back seat were restrained at a rate of 85.7% while children on the front seat were restrained at a rate of 65.6%.

Male drivers were slightly more likely to place a child on the front seat than were female drivers. Children in vehicles driven by male drivers were placed on the front seat of the automobile 24.2% of the time as compared to 20.5% when the driver of the vehicle was female. Children placed on the front seat, as opposed to the back seat, were more likely to be unrestrained regardless of the sex of the driver.

Female drivers are slightly more likely to buckle children in the back seat when compared to male drivers. The data suggests about 84.5% of male drivers will utilize some kind of child restraint for backseat children when they are in control of the vehicle, and likewise about 86.3% of female drivers buckle up children in the back when in control of the vehicle. Obviously educational efforts directed at restraining children in motor vehicles and also placing these children on the back seat for safety reasons have had some positive effects in the state of Mississippi. Refer to Table 4 for more details.

TABLE 4: CHILD RESTRAINT BY POSITION OF CHILD BY GENDER OF DRIVER

Males				
Seating Position of Child	Children Restrained		Total Number of Children Observed	
	Count	Percent (%)	Count	Percent (%)
Front	363	65.1%	558	24.2%
Back	1473	84.5%	1744	75.8%
Totals	1836	79.8%	2302	100%
Females				
Seating Position of Child	Child Restrained		Total Number of Children Observed	
	Count	Percent (%)	Count	Percent (%)
Front	713	66.0%	1081	20.5%
Back	3614	86.3%	4189	79.5%
Totals	4327	82.1%	5270	100%